



NEWS RELEASE

Office of House Speaker Andy Tobin

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Rep. Andy Tobin (R-Dist. 01)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOBIN REMARKS ON 50-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF GLEN CANYON DAM

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX (Sept. 26, 2014) – The Glen Canyon Dam is an excellent example of how the foresight and planning by our predecessors allows us all to enjoy the beautiful scenery and opportunities here in Arizona. From the water storage and electrical generation, to the economic impact of the millions of visitors to Lake Powell each year, this Dam is a model of federal agencies working cooperatively with the states to create projects that continue to sustain residents in Arizona and throughout the southwest.

We have heard a lot about the history and impact the Glen Canyon Dam has had on the entire western region. I would like to tell you more specifically about the significant contribution the Dam has made to Arizona. As you are aware, the Dam serves as a critical component of the Colorado River management. The Dam stores water for use by the lower basin states, including California, Arizona, and Nevada as well as the country of Mexico. It also provides essential flood control for the state of Arizona.

Lake Powell has the capacity to store 24 million acre-feet of water for the benefit of the more than 30 million people who depend on Colorado River water. Before this Dam was constructed, Lake Mead and the Hoover Dam were insufficient to manage the floods and droughts in the state. Arizona, along with the other Lower Basin states, experienced at times large fluctuations in the delivery of their full allocation of Colorado River water. Flooding occurred in plentiful years, and scarcity followed in subsequent years.

Truly, the impact of the water stored in the Lake Powell Reservoir cannot be overstated. It is a crucial part of the overall management of the Colorado River water supply, especially in a time of drought like the one Arizona and the entire West has been experiencing for more than a decade.

In addition to the water storage benefit, the Dam also provides electricity. Salt River Project, one of Arizona's major utilities, receives 100 Megawatts of that energy, which is a small, but a noteworthy addition to their energy portfolio. Hydropower is the most efficient way to produce power, generating energy at twice the efficiency of other methods, and it is non-fossil fuel, renewable electricity.

The energy produced here at Glen Canyon Dam offsets nearly 4.9 billion pounds of carbon annually. Hydropower is the largest source of renewable power in the country, and as we continue to look for sources of clean and renewable power, sources like Glen Canyon Dam remain vital to the overall energy mix in this country.

Water and electricity benefits are obviously significant for the State of Arizona and the southwest as a whole, but they are not the only benefits of the Dam. Another major benefit is the tourism the Glen Canyon Recreation Area brings to the region. With more than 1,900 miles of shoreline, Lake Powell has more shoreline than the entire Western Coast of the United States. Lake Powell receives nearly 2 million visitors each year, bringing revenue into the state of Arizona through the City of Page. The City was initially intended to just be a temporary community to house workers during construction of the Dam, but it continued to grow and thrive after the construction was finished. The City of Page was officially incorporated in 1975, and has served as the “gateway” to Lake Powell and the Glen Canyon Recreation Area for decades. Tourism to Glen Canyon Recreation Area provides valuable jobs to the citizens of the region, including residents of the Navajo Nation. The economic benefit to Arizona is sizable.

You can see that while there is much to be celebrated by the entire southwest, Glen Canyon Dam holds a special significance here in Arizona. It is a source of water, power and revenue. So, it is with great pleasure, and appreciation that I wish Glen Canyon Dam a very happy 50th anniversary.

Andy Tobin is Speaker of the Arizona House of Representatives and State Representative for Legislative District 01. Speaker Tobin moved to Arizona in 1979. In 1993 he settled with his family in the Prescott area. He has been married to his wife, Jennifer, for more than 27 years, and together they have raised five children.

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